

桐生市 Kiryu City



Outline

The city of Kiryu has prospered from of old as a textile-manufacturing center. In 1921, Kiryu officially became the 84th city of Japan. Over the years, there have been many changes to the size and population of the city, concluding on 13 June 2005 with the absorption of the villages of Kurohone and Niisato. As a result of this incorporation, the geographic area of the city has doubled.

Kiryu is located in southeastern Gunma, bordering on Ashikaga City in Tochigi Prefecture. Mt. Akagi looms to the west of the city. Kiryu is about 90 kilometers from Tokyo. It takes roughly 2 hours to get there by car or 1 hour and 40 minutes by train using JR or Tobu railway.

The city is blessed by its beautiful natural environment including Watarase and Kiryu rivers that flow through and holds great history and tradition.

The city of Kiryu has a long history: Earthenware, pottery, and dwelling sites in the Jomon period have been excavated. The Chiamigaito Site is well known for its elaborate ear decorations which were designated a National Important Cultural Asset.

Kiryu textiles also have a long and illustrious history. During the Nara period, Kiryu textiles were presented to the Imperial Court. During the Edo period, the phrase of "To the west, it is Nishijin; to the east, it is Kiryu," was commonly heard, indicating the prominent position of both Nishijin (Kyoto) and Kiryu as leading weaving centers. The many sawtoothed roof mills and shops with earthen-walled storehouses provide evidence of the city's prosperous textile manufacturing past. These structures have become part of the city's early modern heritage.

While textile manufacturing continues in Kiryu, in recent years the production of automotive parts and machine metalworking has taken a lead in the industrial sector.

Today, with a theme of "Trustworthy, Responsible and Energetic!" and with an image of a city of the future, Kiryu has adopted "Tradition and Creativity, the Resplendent City of Kiryu" as its goal. In order to further fuel the growth of the local economy, Kiryu and the Faculty of Engineering of Gunma University have established a system for cooperation between local industries, academia and government. Hopefully, this cooperation will stimulate the development of new businesses while protecting the environment and making use of local resources. In this way, the city is striving to make Kiryu a truly great place to live.

Attractions

◆ Tulip Festival in Azuma Park



Azuma "Tulip Festival" and "Iris Festival" are well known in for enjoying flowers. Some 13,000 tulips bloom in shades of red, white and yellow from mid to late April to the great enjoyment of park visitors. In addition to a tea ceremony held at this time, flower seeds are also distributed to the public. This is also a popular time for cherry blossom viewing.

The park is a 15 minute walk from the JR Kiryu Station

◆ Wild Primrose



The famous Niisato primroses grow wild mainly at the head of the Kaburagi River and its tributaries at an altitude of 450m. The best time for viewing is from the end of April to mid-May. The flowers provide spectacular viewing for the many visitors that come from both within the city and from far away.

There are 3 locations in Niisato that have been classified as natural treasures. Among them, a 1,600 square meter wild primrose field at Funahara area at Mt. Akagi was classified as a natural treasure of Gunma Prefecture in March 1996. In addition, Itabashi area was remodeled into the Primrose Fureai Park to make viewing the primroses accessible to everyone.

- Parking at Primrose Flower Section: 30 cars

- Parking at Primrose Fureai Park: 25 cars

For information or inquiries, please contact the Niisato Branch Office Regional Promotion and Maintenance Division at +81-277-74-2217.

◆ Cherry Trees at Kurohone Sports Park



Flower viewing is from the end of March through mid April. Cherry blossoms can be enjoyed over a long period here because the many varieties, including Kawazu cherry, Miyabi cherry, weeping cherry, and Somei Yoshino cherry, bloom successively.

Viewing the cherry trees from the open-air bath at Mizunuma Station Onsen Center is particularly pleasurable.

The sports park is about 1 minute on foot from Mizunuma Station on the Watarase Keikoku Railway Line.

◆ Kiryu Yagibushi Festival



As the biggest event of the year in Kiryu, this festival takes place on the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August every year. During the festival, Yagibushi folk dancing takes place all over the city, along with a children's Mikoshi festival, All-Japan Yagibushi Performance Competition, Dance Yagibushi event, and Jumbo Parade. Some 450,000 visitors participate in this colorful event.

Events are held at various sites in the city. The nearest site from Kiryu Station on JR Ryomo Line is Suehiro Street (1 minute walk).

◆ Caribbean Beach



The Caribbean Beach is the Kanto region's largest all-year-round indoor heated pool. This endless summer paradise is created in the image of the Caribbean ocean. Visitors can feel like they are at the beach by enjoying the large and small waves which range from between 30 cm-1m tall; a pool where you can enjoy body board; a 150 m round pool with flowing waters; a pool with swimming lanes for serious swimmers; "Rodeo Mountain" - a 6 m high waterslide; an 80 m waterslide where you can ride down in special rubber dinghies; and a kids' pool.

At the poolside there is a relaxation space and a jacuzzi. Also, there is a restaurant where visitors can eat and drink in their swimwear as well as a shop, so visitors can enjoy a whole day at Caribbean Beach. The large 800 vehicle car park is free.

Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult Weekday 500 (400) yen Weekends/Public Holidays/High Season 800 (650) yen - Junior High Student Weekday 300 (200) yen Weekends/Public Holidays/High Season 500 (400) yen - Infant Weekday 100 yen Weekends/Public Holidays/High Season 100 yen <p>* High Season is from 20 July – 31 August * () The fee within brackets is for groups of 15 people or more (not including infants)</p>
Opening Hours	10:00 – 21:00 (Last entry is at 20:00)
Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Thursday (open if falls on a holiday during May to September) - 31 December, 1 January, and February
Note	<p>Infants still in diapers cannot use the pool.</p> <p>2nd grade students of Elementary school and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.</p>

For information and enquiries, please contact Caribbean Beach at +81-277-70-2121.

◆ Kurohone Summer Festival



Kurohone Summer Festival, held at Kurohone Sports Park, is a colorful summer evening event dating from long ago. Former residents also come from far and wide to see the swaying paper lanterns that light up the night and hear the nostalgic rhythms of the festival. The celebration continues until late at night with Yagibushi dancing and a fireworks display.

The festival venue is a 1 minute walk from Mizunuma Station on Watarase Keikoku Railway.

◆ Ebisuko



Ebisuko is an annual festival which takes place at Nishinomiya Shrine every year on November 19 (Festival Eve) and 20 (Main Festival). Pilgrims from all over the Kanto region come to pray for success in business, making it a very lively occasion. The streets leading up to the shrine are lined with stalls selling showy good luck charms such as "*otakara*" and "*kumade*," along with many delicious kinds of food. The main street leading up to the shrine is always thronged with pilgrims.

The festival venue is a 10 minute walk from Kiryu Station on JR Ryomo Line.

◆ Niisato Takigi Noh (traditional outdoor plays)



Niisato Takigi Noh takes place in autumn every year and is held on the Ninomaru Lawn in Yamagami Castle Ruins Park. A bonfire glows in the eerie darkness of the old castle ruins and lights up a subtle yet profound world. This mystical background is mesmerizing. For information and inquiries, please contact the Niisato Public Hall at +81-277-74-4151.

◆ Autumnal Leaves at Kojise Ravine



Carved out over the ages by the Watarase River the natural scenery of this ravine is most beautiful during autumn and soothes the hearts of onlookers.

◆ Daruma-ichi at Fumonji Temple



This Daruma-ichi was instituted in 1964. The road leading up to the temple is lined with stalls selling Daruma Dolls guaranteeing good fortune, commercial success, household safety, etc. In addition, there are many other stalls selling food and household goods. Many people attend with their families, making it a very lively event. Fumonji Temple was established in 1575 by Lord Yura Narishige, who moved it from its original location in Serada Village, Nitta-gun. Fumonji is also known as the "Hydrangea Temple" because of the 200 hydrangeas growing there.

The temple is a 10 minute drive by car from Kiryu Station on JR Ryomo Line.

◆ Winter sweet Blossoms at the Yamagami Castle Ruins Park



There are around 150 winter sweet trees planted around the edge of the grassy area of the Yamagami Castle Ruins Park.

The pretty yellow blooming flowers make for a brilliant sight. The park is filled with their sweet scent, announcing the coming of spring. The park is bustling with tourists from mid-January to the end of February, when it is the best time for viewing the flowers.

It is said that the origin of the name of the flower in Japanese “roubai” reflects its semi-transparent, wax-like appearance.

For information or inquiries, please contact the Niisato Branch Office Regional Promotion and Maintenance Division at +81-277-74-2217.

◆ Nashigi Ice Curtain



Along the forest road of Kurohonecho Shukumeguri (Nashigi Onsen: in front of Nashigikan) there is an amazing icicle formation on the hillside which has become a new popular attraction over the last few years.

The ice curtain is a 10 minute drive by car from Motojuku Station on Watarase Keikoku Railway.